REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow is respectfully requested. These comments are intended to advance the case to issue without delay. The claims in the application were 1-21 and 27. By this amendment, claims 10 and 12 were cancelled. Accordingly, the claims now in the application are claims 1-9, 11, 13-21 and 27.

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because the abstract contains claim limitation language. It is respectfully submitted that this objection has been obviated by the above amendments. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 and 27 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraskin (US Patent No. 4,356,190), further in view of Beecham Group Limited (GB 1,420,946). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been obviated by the above amendments and the arguments which follow.

Independent claims 1 and 27 have been amended restricting the claims to preferred embodiments chelators such as aminopolycarboxylate chelators that have the acid forms N,N'-ethylenebis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)glycine] (EDDHA), triethylenetetraaminehexaacetic acid (TTHA), and diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA). Support for this claim amendment may be found on page 11, lines 17-21 of the specification.

The chelators recited in the claims as amended have been found to have surprisingly good anti-microbial performance. These iron (III) chelators have been previously unrecognised for their excellence at maintaining low microbial numbers. Additionally, the compositions as claimed are restricted to those having a relatively high

level of C_1 to C_4 monohydric alcohol carrier fluid. The cited art does not disclose nor render obvious compositions containing the recited iron (III) chelators and level of C_1 to C_4 monohydric alcohol carrier fluid. Accordingly, the amended claims recite these iron (III) chelators in a novel combination of carrier fluid and solubility promoter that enables good stability and also provides benefits in terms of performance and aesthetics.

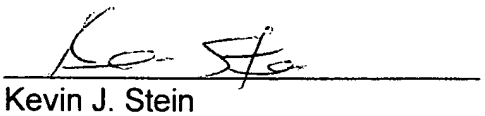
Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Abstract:

An anti-microbial composition ~~comprising~~employing:

(iv) a C_1 to C_4 monohydric alcohol carrier fluid, present at a level of at least 50% by weight of the total composition (excluding any volatile propellant present);

(v) an iron (III) chelator having an iron (III) binding constant of 10^{23} or greater; and

(vi) a solubility promoter such as water:

The transitional metal chelator serves as an active anti-microbial, whilst the carrier fluid-solubility promoter mixture enables the formation of a stable composition. Preferred compositions are homogeneous solutions.

In the claims:

Claim 1 and 27 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An anti-microbial composition comprising:

(iv) a C_1 to C_4 monohydric alcohol carrier fluid, present at a level of at least 50% by weight of the total composition (excluding any volatile propellant present);

(v) an iron (III) chelator ~~having an iron (III) binding constant of 10^{23} or greater~~selected from the group consisting of

(a) N,N'-ethylenebis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)glycine],

(b) triethylenetetraaminehexaacetic acid, and

(c) diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid.

(vi) a solubility promoter selected from the group consisting of

b) water;

(f) an organic amine;

(g) a polyhydric alcohol or derivative thereof;

(h) a volatile propellant having fluorine-carbon or oxygen-carbon bonds;

(i) any combination of (a) to (d)

27. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition comprising:

(ii) a C_1 to C_4 monhydric alcohol carrier fluid, present at a level of greater than 50% by weight of the total composition (excluding any volatile propellant present);

(ii) an iron (III) chelator selected from the group consisting of: ~~having an iron (III) binding coefficient of 10^{23} or greater;~~

(a) N,N'-ethylenebis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)glycine],

(b) triethylenetetraaminehexaacetic acid, and

(c) diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid

and

(iii) water as a solubility promoter.